level under the supervision of the office of the District Collectors. In the urban areas the task will be undertaken by involving the urban local bodies.

(c) Detailed guidelines for implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana have been issued all the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(d) States/UTs have been requested by Government of India on 25.12.2000 to complete task of identification and issue of ration cards to Antyodaya families within a period of 2 months. Allocation has not been made to any State/UT at present as the task of identification is in progress in most of the States.

Consumer Protection Act

155. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the amendments to the existing Consumer Protection Act to strengthen the mechanism of consumer dispute redressal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of cases are pending in various consumer fora;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to minimize delay in disposing of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION. (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The proposals to amend the consumer Protection Act, 1986 are being finalized.

(c) and (d) As per the information made available, as on date

the number of cases filed, disposed and pending, since inception, in the National Commission, State Commission and District Forums are stated below:

Consumer Courts	Cases filed since inception	Cases disposed since inception	Disposal percentage	Cases pending
National Commission	21356	11841	55.4%	9515
State Commissions	205470	124048	60.4%	81422
District Forums	1408903	1164315	82.6%	244588

(c) Among the steps taken by the Central Government for smooth functioning of the Consumer Forums for quicker disposal of cases are:

(1) To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, Central Government has provided a one-time grants of Rupees sixty one crore and eighty lakhs to the State/UTs during the period 1995—99.

(2) Monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts through the National Commission.

(3) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Members/Presidents in various Consumer Forums on priority.

(4) Central Government is regularly taking up with State/UT Governments for ensuring the smooth functioning of the Consumer Forums and close monitoring of their performance.

(5) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 from time to time.